

# Gray Squirrels



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- The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) provides advice on urban wildlife issues, but does not provide nuisance squirrel control
  - Feeding squirrels can lead to nuisance problems.
  - Remove tree limbs growing close to buildings.
  - Seal holes in structures to eliminate potential shelter.
  - You may live trap and relocate squirrels without a permit. (Title 76)
  - For more information on hunting and trapping squirrels:  
[Hunting and Trapping Regulations](#)

## Biological Information

**Distribution:** from southern Saskatchewan, throughout New England, south through Florida, and west into Texas.

**Habitat:** favors oak-hickory forests, also found in other hardwoods and mixed forests as well as in cities and suburbs with scattered large trees.

**Appearance:** Gray to grayish brown squirrel usually between 9 and 12 inches long and weighing  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.; rarely appears in black color phase; bushy tail between 6 and 10 inches long; lighter colored belly

**Reproduction:** breed twice a year in January-February and June-July; groups of males chase a receptive female and she may mate with more than one; litters are usually between 2 and 4

**Food habits:** nuts, acorns, buds, flowers, fungi, fruit, seed, and occasionally insects and young birds; buries nuts and acorns during the winter

**Habits:** mainly arboreal, but spends time on the ground, especially in fall and winter; builds nests out of twigs and leaves on tree branches or in cavities, and uses multiple nests; solitary in the summer, but den together in winter; remains active year round

**Controls:** bobcats, foxes, weasels, snakes, hawks, owls, and humans; very commonly hit by cars

**Values:** caching nuts and acorns are important in forest regeneration; important game species and prey item



## Live Trapping Squirrels



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- Nuts, peanut butter, corn, and sunflower seeds serve as effective bait for squirrels.
- Tie the trap doors open for several days to get the squirrels accustomed to feeding in the cage.
- Place the trap in a location where the trapped squirrel will not be disturbed by humans or domesticated animals.
- Check the trap at least twice a day to avoid causing excessive stress to the animal.
- Release squirrels at least 5 miles away.